

THE
MEMOIRS

Of another Unhappy
Old Gentlewoman.

Collected from
Her own Memorandums and several
other authentic Papers.

Ridentem
Quid vetat dicere verum?

HOR.

NUMBER I.



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TO THE

Right Venerable and truly Honourable

LADY *T I M E*.

M A D A M,

 HE Eagerness of my Wishes is at last gratified, and I have the Honour to address you in this public Manner. I don't come with the delicate Hand of a Dedicator, to construe Defects into Excellencies, and natural Imperfections into acquired Qualifications. No, Madam: As your Favours are bestow'd without Distinction upon all the Sons of *Adam*, every honest Man must think it his Duty to use you tenderly, and vindicate, at all Times and in all Places, your Reputation from the scandalous Imputations and odious Epithets, thrown out against you by some Writers. These Gentlemen imagine, that they brand you with Infamy when they

A 2 bestow

iv DEDICATION.

bestow upon you the Appellations of Midwife, Greedy-gut, &c. but these Things don't argue less the Want of Ingenuity than Discernment on their Part: I will maintain, against all the World, that such Titles and Professions are truly honourable, reputable, and useful, when applied to you. Without your Ladyship's delivering Hand we should have wanted *Homer*, *Milton*, and *Tom Thumb*; and the greatest Undertakings have been defeated for Want of your Assistance: I am told that an Epic Poem, on the celebrated History of *Tobit* and his *Dog* lately proved an Abortion for Want of your Presence; nay, Mankind in general are so well convinced of your Abilities in this Business, that nothing is commoner than to say, *Time will bring all Things to bear*. Our Doubts are all resolved, and our Expectations and Grumbling satisfied when an old She-Philosopher comforts

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comforts us with, *There are great Things in the Womb of Time, There is a Time for all Things, Your Time is not yet come.* A modern General, in a Reign not long since, would not have been able to have done as much in twelve Years as his Neighbour did in three, if your Influence was absent. When any great Achievement is perform'd with Diligence and Expedition, the highest Compliment we can make the Author is to say, *He made good Use of his Time.* I could say much more on your Merits in this Capacity, but shall stop here, and proceed to defend you against the Charge of Greedy-Gut.

'Tis certain that some Gentlemen (perhaps most of the scribbling Profession) have much to complain of you on this Score; they charge you with devouring their Works in a Week, be the Impression as large as it will; and I know a Gentleman,
whose

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whose vast Genius conceived a Poem which reached as far as the Resurrection, that now acknowledges you would not suffer it to out-live a Winter's Day : But I will answer for it, that, when the Question is fairly examined, the Tables will change, and the Crimes objected to you will come to their own Doors. Every one knows that you have a Lock before, which any lazy Fellow may hold fast until his Business is done. 'Tis true you wait for no Man ; but then I know no other Business we have but to wait for you : He lies in his Heart who pretends he had not, nor could not meet with you. Every Man is conscious of your Presence in some Shape or another, from the first Moment he is able to think 'till that Faculty leaves him entirely ; but a bad Excuse is better than none at all, and these poor Devils might hang themselves if they had not you to sling the Blame on ; who, they
are

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are certain, will never take Pains to give them the Lie, tho' their Performance will. My Grandmother, with Sentiments very different from those, sincerely begs your Protection, not that she dare hope to live in your Affections, like the immortal *Rapin*, *Oldmixon*, or *Cart*; the highest her Vanity aspires to is to request, that you will suffer her to live so long as to provide a few Necessaries from the Sale of her Memoirs. She is the more inclined to hope for your Ladyship's Indulgence in this Particular, from the remarkable Instances of your Favour lately shewn to two superannuated Ladies, whose Cases, I think, without any Vanity or Partiality to my own Family, are not half so affecting as this: They were active in Pursuit of Misfortunes, and the very Instruments of their own Distress; but my Grandmother is universally acknowledged to be a passive, well-dispos'd Creature,

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Creature, and whatever Miseries she labours under at present, every one knows, arise from the Pride, Folly, or Corruption of her own Children, or a Set of Agents with whom she has been cursed for almost a Century.

I fear, Madam, that you now begin to think that I am a Monopolist, and that I design to engage all your Attention; but you must be sensible, that every Man who knows the invaluable Blessings of your Presence, can never be weary of so divine an Indulgence,

I am, M A D A M,

With unfeign'd Gratitude,

Your Ladyship's,

Most obedient

Humble Servant,



PHILOCRONOS.



The MEMOIRS of an unhappy old Gentlewoman.



THE World will no doubt expect that I give the Reasons which induced me to write the Lives of my Grandmother and her two Sisters. Without further Preamble or Apology I must confess, that to gratify my own Vanity was the sole Motive; for our Family have made no inconsiderable Figure in *Europe* these last 1700 Years: I might indeed, as well as some of my Neighbours, lay Claim to great Antiquity, and trace their History to *Noah* or *Adam*, perhaps with some Probability, tho' no great historical Certainty; but, as I am no *Welchman*, I must leave this Task to somebody else, and freely acknowledge, that my Family sprang from nothing. What Education my Grandmother had in her Infancy is uncertain; but I believe it was coarse enough, for I am credibly informed, that, 'till within these

Seven or Eight Hundred Years, tho' she kept a great deal of good Company, she knew not how to make a Courtesy, 'till a *French* Son of a Whore came over, and taught her a great many Monkey-Tricks. Before his coming she had several Husbands: Some behaved very well, by whom she had a numerous Offspring; others, who were for the most Part a Pack of plain North-country Fellows, used her savagely enough; and, as it appears by some Memorandums in her own Pocket-Book, there was old scratching and fighting in the Family. After the *Frenchman* had cut the Throat of the last, and my Grandmother, to her Shame, had received the Murderer to her Bed, he turn'd over a new Leaf in her Family: He taught her Children to keep good Hours, to go to Bed at Eight every Night; and exercised the Stepfather with excessive Rigour, kicking and boxing her Children, turning them out of Doors; and, to finish all, terrified them with the Publication of a Book, under the dreadful Name of Doomſday.

This Conduct so afflicted my poor Grandmother, that she went all in Tears to supplicate this merciless Son of a Bitch to have some Compassion on her poor Children; but, whether my Grandmother was beginning to grow old, or the Tyrant was insensible to any thing but the Gratification



tion of his own cruel Disposition, she quickly found she had no Influence, for, instead of softening her Affliction with tender and endearing Words, he broke out, as was his Custom, into execrable Blasphemies, swearing he would teach both her and them better Manners. I know, says he, Madam, the infamous Life which you yourself led: Before my coming this Place was no better than a Bawdy-house; and you, I am told, at one Time publicly entertain'd seven Husbands, (besides Gallants) who were all Foreigners. What Respect then, Madam, can I, or any Man else, preserve for such a gallimaufry spurious Brood? If you have a Mind to live happily with me, you must learn to be industrious yourself, and teach these Hussies, your Daughters, to make Butter and Cheese, and to spin: This is your Province, and for the future take Notice, that you must meddle with nothing without Doors. My Grandmother, who was but little us'd to such Kind of Treatment, cried bitterly, and reported the Matter to her Sons, with many aggravating Circumstances; but the cunning *Frenchman* was aware of the Consequences, and had beforehand order'd his Footmen to steal, or take by Force, their Pot-guns and Cross-bows, on Pretence of their doing Mischief in the Neighbourhood at Night, by killing Poultry

try and breaking Windows. The Sparks finding themselves unable to do any thing by Repentment, sat down patiently, and their Stepfather domineer'd so unmercifully, that, after that Time, hardly one durst say, his Life was his own.

The next Step was to encrease the Number of his Followers to Fifty or Sixty Thousand, which he found himself obliged to do, to keep his Family in Order, as they were grown turbulent: This so dispirited all my Cousins, that, making a Virtue of their Necessity, they began to conform, in the best Manner they could, to the Will of their new Father. This Condescension of theirs conspired to encourage the *Frenchman*, with the Hopes of bringing about one of the most wicked Schemes that ever was contrived in the Heart of Man; which was to obtain a Promise from all my Cousins, that my Grandmother should, after his Discease, in Case she survived him, during the rest of her Life, always marry in his Tribe; with this unnatural and incestuous Clause, that Preference should be always had to the eldest Son, whether she or her Children liked him or not. My wretched Kinsmen complied with this wicked Scheme, whether through Ignorance or Cowardice I know not; and the imperious *Frenchman* saw himself and his Posterity the recognized Sovereigns of all
that

that our unhappy Family had been contending for thro' so many Centuries, viz. the Power of choosing for themselves. Soon after this my Gentleman takes it in his Head to go over the Water, and recreate himself in a large Cyder-Garden of his, where he and some of his Companions meeting, and drinking an hearty Glas by way of congratulating him on his Success, he and the Company growing a little warm, to finish their Rejoicings it was propos'd to make some large Bonfires, by way of Eclat as they call it, in the Neighbourhood: But so avaritious was this damn'd Fellow, that neither he himself did, nor would he suffer any of his Companions to, contribute one Farthing-Candle towards purchasing the Materials. Here is my Neighbour *Ragoût*, quoth he, who has a Parcel of old Houses in our Neighbourhood, let us set them a-fire; perhaps he may never hear of it, and if he does, by St. Luke's Face I don't care a Straw, for I have an old Grudge to that Fellow. However my Grandpapa had like to have paid for his frugal Scheme, and *Ragoût* was very near drubbing him heartily; besides he was now grown as fat as an Alderman, for I am told, that nobody kept a better House than my Grandmother, particularly for Beef, Pudding, Custards, Turkeys, and such like, on which he fed heartily.

heartily. The old Gentleman over-heated himself, contracted a Fever, and died, bequeathing my Grandmother to a cunning red-headed Brat, his Son, who, I think, was remarkable for little else but that he was a most dextrous Pickpocket, and scarcely left my Cousins one Penny; besides he built a great School for the Practitioners of that laudable Profession, which is still extant among us; where that hopeful Business is carried on with different Methods, great Affiduity, and Success, to this very Day.

About this Time my Grandmother began to look with an evil Eye upon the Possessions of her second Sister in the North, which (God knows) were lousy and beggarly enough: She persuaded her Husband to pick a Quarrel with her Brother and Sister, unless they would acknowledge her and her Husband to be their Landlords. My Aunt, who was a proud stomachful Baggage, look'd upon this as a great Indignity; upon which to it they fell. In the second Year after the Brangle, both my Uncle and his Son were killed. I don't much wonder, while my Grandmother entertain'd seven or eight of the North-Country Fellows at a Time, she was asham'd to look her own legitimate Offspring in the Face, and therefore consented to their being sent out to feed Goats in the Hills: But
now,

now, without any Reluctance, she saw this new Spouse make a Journey to rob these poor People of a few Goat Skins and old Cheese: He did not long survive these Pranks, for a near-sighted Forrester, mistaking him for a red Deer, thrust him up instead of a Stag. And here I must take Notice, that, tho' my Grandfather had in the Marriage Article inserted that Clause with Respect of the eldest Son's Preference, which he then pretended was just and natural, he was the first that infringed it, by demising my Grandmother to the second Son; from which we may conclude, that he looked upon every thing convenient as just, which some of his Successors have happily imitated.

The third Husband of this goodly Tribe was a cunning Blade, who had so recommended himself to my Cousins by an affected Generosity, that, in Contempt of his Father's Will, in the Absence of his elder Brother, they prevailed on their Mother to make Choice of him, the better to establish his new Marriage; and to prevent his elder Brother's claiming a Divorce, he convened all his upper Servants and Chaplains, and told them, that, for the future, they must look on the rest of my Grandmother's Children as Members of the same Family, and that they should be admitted into all their Debates and Secrets; then calling

ing for one or two of the wealthiest of my Cousins out of each Parish, he told them what he had done for them; besides he acknowledg'd what a Pickpocket his Father was, that he was sensible how uneasy they were, because they had not a fingering as well as other Folks; but he would teach them all his Father's Arts, and enable them, if they kept fair with his upper Servants, not only to pick the Pockets of all their Neighbours, but even their own; besides I will bestow on you a small Portion of the Powder of Whee-ge, by whose Virtue, and the Repetition of one Monosyllable only, Things shall miraculously change their Nature: Virtue shall become Vice, and Vice Virtue: The very Laws of Property shall become subservient to this powerful Charm. It will be imagined, that he granted such Privileges to the Farmers out of a Principle of Affection; the Devil such a Thought ever enter'd his Head. His upper Servants and Chaplains particularly were grown to such an Height of Wantonness, having lately changed their Ragoûts and Soup Meagres for Roast Beef and Plumb Pudding, that they could be prevailed on to do but just what they pleas'd. But this Scheme was never the Projection of his own wise Head, for somebody had told him, or he had read it in a Book, that my Grandmother's Husbands

bands, in her younger Days, had practised this Device with great Success: But I am inclined to think, that his Successors have heartily cursed him for reviving a Privilege, so detrimental to the Authority of an Husband. Notwithstanding all these Precautions, his Brother instituted a Suit against him in a Court of Arms, but suffer'd himself to be non-suited before it came to an Issue.

Whether this Man discover'd any thing of a *Sapbo* in my Grandmother's Constitution, I know not, but, in his Life Time, he frequently talked as if he would have her betrothed to his Daughter; and, when dying, he actually bequeathed her to this Woman, who was provided for already, the Lord knows where. His Nephew, a cunning artful Dog, represented, in a full Assembly of the upper Servants, Chaplains, and Farmers, how disreputable and absurd it would appear, to make a Woman Goodman of the House (as he call'd it); and that they should be laugh'd at by all their Neighbours. I believe the Apprehension of the Affront more than the Justice of the Assertion, together with the large Promises he made to every Rank, prevailed, and he accordingly ascended the Marriage-Bed; but God knows, he found it a very thorny one, for his upper Ser-

vants, taking Advantage of his former Promises, began to set up for themselves, and to live Gentlemen. They built fine Houses, and at last had the Insolence to deny paying my Grandfather his Rents. While he sent his Bailiffs among them to distrain, my Aunt in the North, mindful of former Injuries, stirr'd up her Sons to break into our Grounds, and steal or carry away by Force, whatever they lay'd their Hands on. But my Cousins, having no great Affection to such Company, assembling themselves together, soon gave the Gentry Reason to repent of their Expedition. These were not all the Troubles this poor Devil had to contend with, for much about this Time, the Lady, to whom my Grandmother was to have been espoused, began to scold dreadfully, and made such a cursed Dinn, that she brought half the Country about her, most of whom she won to her Interest by Prayers, Tears, or Entreaties; by whose Assistance she soon found Means to nab poor Grandpapa: However, Prosperity soon made Madam forgetful of herself, which so exasperated the People, that, joining with her Enemies, they released their captive Master, and almost reduced her to his former Condition: Her Spirits were so broken by this, that, for the rest of his Life, she
thought

thought no more of forcing his Wife from him.

Soon after, to cut off all Cause of Dispute, he settled the Reversion of my Grandmother and Estate upon the Son of this female Rival, and did not survive it long. On his Death, the young Gentleman accordingly succeeded, and my Grandmother felt the Sweets of Quiet at Home, which she had not done for many Years. The only Interruption he met with was from his first Chaplain, for the first Nineteen Years, who was grown so damned saucy, that he imagined he was invested with a Power distinct from his Master, and, for this Reason, would do but what he pleas'd. My Grandfather, at first, carried the Matter high, and swore he would turn the old Rascal out of Doors; but the crafty Chaplain, who knew his weak Side, and that he was afraid of the Devil, threaten'd he would be amply revenged on him, by the Assistance of a Friend of his, who was an *Italian* Conjuror. This Fulmination so frighten'd the poor Man, that he received him into his Protection, more out of Fear than Love. Now, by the Assistance of the Farmers, to whom he was very acceptable, he curbed the Insolence of his Chaplains and upper Servants, and

obliged them to pay their Rents, and to demolish their strong Places.

Nineteen Years after his Marriage with my Grandmother, whether he found the Business of conducting the Family too much, or from what other Motive, I know not; but he, with no less Folly than Wickedness, associates his eldest Son Partner of his Bed, by which Means he brought himself into an unlucky Scrape. The young Gentleman was hot, weak, and ambitious; and, as malevolent Persons are never wanting to enflame the Desire of such, my Cousin's Family in the North, and Monsieur *Ragoût* fomented the Quarrel, and assisted him in his Attempts against his Father.

Ragoût, because we held some Vineyards and Farms in his Neighbourhood, for which we paid no Rent, and my Cousins, as well as their Mother, always look'd with an envious Eye on my Grandmother's Prosperity. This unnatural Quarrel distress'd my Grandfather a good deal; but the Spark soon dying, the Parties were reconciled. My Grandfather had but two Sons left: The Elder who was to be his Heir and Successor, was an enterprizing, hardy, bold, young Man, who had lately got from *Ragoût* a very fine young *Philis*. The young Gentleman was extremely

ly well pleased with the Present, but his Father having seen her unluckily, took her privately; and 'tis said he kept her for his own Use. This so disgusted the young Man, his Mother, and the rest of the old Gentleman's Friends, that the Son took up Arms, and his Wife and Friends forsook him; Vices like Virtues have their Rewards. The old Gentleman seeing himself deserted, sneaked into an obscure Corner, and died of the Pip, a Distemper very incident to the Cholerick.

One Accident happen'd in the Life of this Husband, which tickled my Grandmother's Vanity not a little: Her Sister's Children in the West disagreeing among one another, about the Bounds of their Potatoo-Gardens, my Grandmother who wanted nothing more than such a Division, was ashamed to meddle publicly in the Squabble, yet she consented, that about One Thousand Two Hundred of her Children should go over to support the weakest Party, which she said was done out of Compassion, and, for her own Part, she desired no Reward, but the Glory of reconciling them; but the Event gives her the Lie horridly, for these People, tho' they did assist the distressed Side, yet it was manifest, that their principal Care was to establish themselves; for the very next
Year

Year after, She sent her Husband over with a vast Army, as if it were to take Possession of an hostile Country ; which so terrified these poor People, little accus-tom'd to such formidable Appearances, that their Mother and they inconsiderately acknowledged my Grandmother and her Spouse to be their Landlords, and took Leases accordingly.

Not long after, my Grandfather finding his youngest Son would be obliged to begin the World, without a Groat in his Pocket, confers upon him the Lordship of this new Acquisition, by which he was neither one Acre or one Penny the richer, but gave him a Name ; for they became Tenents to my Grandmother and her Spouse, in no other Sense, than as the eldest and strongest Branch of the Family, they should be acknowledged Sovereigns, for keeping Peace, among my Aunt's Children.

The Son who next succeeded to my Grandmother's Bed, was a Man of great Abilities, of Body and of Mind, but avaricious and proud : The first of these Dispositions gave him an horrid Itch for Money ; to gratify which he became as notorious a Pickpocket as any of his Predecessors, and his Pride influenced him to squander it as idly ; besides, an odd Maggot now bit him, and my Gentleman for-
sooth

sooth took in his Head, that he was an excellent Surgeon, and that *Salladin*, Sultan of the *Sarazens*, had Occasion for his Prescriptions. He was greatly encouraged in this Whim, by a very eminent old *Italian* Doctor, who pretended his Advice was infallible; and, as was hinted before, a most able Conjuror. This Man insisted, that, by the Power of an Almighty Spell, he could bring Happiness or Misery where ever he pleased, and at whatsoever Distance; that he could undo every human Action, that was already done, or might hereafter be done, and render it as ineffectual, and as meer a Blank, as if it had never happened.

This old Fellow had innumerable Journey-men, to whom, he asserts, he has communicated some Share of his Cabalistic Power. These Men are dispersed all over the World; and, by their Master's Authority, have the Impudence to assume the Privilege of meddling, without Controul, with the secret and domestick Concerns of every Man's Family; and pretend, that, by his sole Power, they can mend the Cracks and Flaws, nay the very Holes, in Men's Consciences, and make them as sound as a Bell, with nothing else but a Bit of a Cake of baked Meal and Water; which they will damn themselves to the Pit of Hell,

Hell, to prove a Farthing-Candle, or what you will. Judge then what an hopeful Way my Grandfathers must have been in, when their Chaplains, were chosen out of this ungracious Tribe. But this old Gentleman sometimes gave his Advice insincerely; for he made it a common Practice, to persuade all the Masters of the great Families in *Europe*, they were Physicians or Surgeons; and encouraged them to travel into distant Countries to exercise their Talents, that he should monopolize the whole Business at Home. *Ragoût* was seized with the like Phrenzy at the same Time, and they both set out to put their Scheme in Execution. On their first coming they prescribed several strong Doses to the *Sarazen* with so much Success, that his Fever abated a good deal, but was visibly weakened. Soon after my Grandfather and *Ragoût* differed about the Manner of applying their Medicine, and *Ragoût* went Home in Dudgeon: My Grandmother did not long stay behind him. In his Journey Home he was caught short by an *Austrian* for trespassing on his Ground, through Revenge for having pulled down some Rags of his, that were hung up to frighten the Crows; where he might have stay'd till he had rotted, if my Cousins had not made a voluntary Subscription to pay the poor Devil's

Devil's fees. During his Absence my Grandmother was obliged to receive the odious Addresses of several fine Gentlemen, but her Husband's own Brother laboured most importunately to alienate her Affections from him : But, Thanks to the unshaken Fidelity of my Cousins, her Constancy for this Time was irreproachable. *Ragoût* too could not forbear nibbling ; but on his Return, they all changed their Tunes : He quickly brought his Brother on his Marrow-bones ; and *Ragoût* being well threshed, was taught to stay at Home.

Not long after the all-greedy Spirit of my Grandfather began to shew itself : An honest Gentleman found some Friar's Hoard, which he was satisfied to divide with him. Not contented with this, he swore bloodily he would have the whole, which the other refusing, he went in a boisterous quarrelsome Manner to the Gentleman's House, and, being refused Admittance, he ordered his Servants to pull it down. The Family, alarmed at this Proceeding, began to fling Stones, and whatever they could get : One more lucky than the rest, lighting on an old rusty Flesh-fork, discharged it with such Success, that he took my Grandfather in the right Shoulder, and gave him a Wound that in eleven

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Days

Days carried him off, in Spite of the Lyon's Heart ; and the Culprit was cased like a Rabbit for his Service. My Grandfather on his Death-bed (notwithstanding the ill Blood that subsisted between them) demised my Grandmother to his younger Brother, who received Her principally through the Choice and Consent of my Cousins, and not in Right of his Brother's Will. Since the coming of the *Frenchman*, the poor Woman was obliged to take up with whatever Husband her last Lord thought proper to appoint, and he, for the most Part, governed her Family without Controul ; but now my Cousins and the other Servants took Heart of Grace, and began to look upon it as a great Hardship, they should be commanded by the Caprice of every frolicksome Fellow the last Husband thought fit to Assign. How frail and uncertain are all human Councils ! The upper Servants, who would now be called Gentlemen, having got many Servants of their own, quarreling with some Journeymen of the old Doctor's, my Grandfather's Chaplains took their Part, and the Quarrel became general. My Grandfather however, taking Advantage of this Confusion, set up the Trade of picking Pockets with as great Earnestness as any of his Predecessors ; and Laity
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and Clergy, without Distinction, felt the damned Effects of his Ingenuity. Their Complaints were first heard in Grumblings, soon after in Clamours, and, by and by, in open Violence. Upon this he told them, he did not care a Fart for any Thing they could do, and he would send his Servants to kick them all to the Devil, if they were not quiet ; but, not terrified at these Menaces, he goes out with a Crowd of his Livery-men at his Back, threatening what he would do. But his Servants would not strike one Blow, as they themselves might have the same Complaints to make. My Grandfather, finding himself now deserted, was obliged to down upon his Knees in the Middle of the Field, and swear a great Oath, that he would never desire to take by secret Fraud, or open Violence, one Penny without their Consent ; and also gave them a penal Bond for his Performance.

Ragoût, who never did, nor never will, wish my Grandmother and her Affairs well, now spirits up his Nephew to demand my Grandmother ; and a terrible Scuffle ensued. At last my Grandfather caught the Youngster, and put him in a strong Cage, where, in Obedience to his Commands, 'tis said he died. This Fact brought so much the Odium of his Tenents on the

other Side of the Water upon him, that *Ragout* found it no great Difficulty to strip him of all his Goods and Hereditaments on that Side; nay, he took our Cyder-Garden, after it had been Three Hundred Years in our Possession: And such was the Weakness of this Man, that my Cousins from the North would not have left him a Bed to lay upon, if his own Family had not taken up Arms, more out of Love to Liberty and Piety to our dear Grandmother, than Respect to him. Notwithstanding, such a quarrelsome Son of a Bitch was this, that, as soon as he had nothing to fear from his Neighbours; he was intolerably troublesome and arrogant in the Family, and would swear, that they had no Right to confine him, in his own House, from doing what he pleased; and insisted, he had as good a Right to cut a Throat or pick a Pocket, as any of his Predecessors. Upon which the People unanimously entered Judgment, and took out Execution against him; and sent for one *Lewis*, a very able *French* Constable to arrest him. *Lewis* chased him about, and pursued him so closely, that he certainly would have fallen into his Hands, if he had not very civilly died; as if he thought he could make his Escape sure by no other Means, leaving
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my Grandmother to his Son, whose tender Age, more than his Father's Merits, plead-
for him.

A very honest Gentleman of *Pembroke-
shire* being appointed Tutor, and Steward
of the Family, during his Minority, as
this young Gentleman was bred in all the
Follies and Vanities of an Heir, he was
very much addicted to Pleasure: Whether
he had an *Italian* Taste or no, God knows,
but the old Doctor sent him Three Hun-
dred of his Emissaries at one Time, who
finding so acceptable a Reception, he took
Care to increase their Number to such a
Degree, that, at one Time, they monopo-
lized absolutely one Half of his Estate;
at which my Cousins, from the highest to
the lowest, took such Offence, that, with
one Consent, they insisted they should be
all turned out of Doors; adding, that, if
they must maintain Idlers, they had
enough of them at Home; besides the
young Gentleman was perpetually laying
Schemes, and contriving how to get Mo-
ney to gratify his Pleasures. These Things
you may imagine gave my Cousins a good
deal of Uneasiness; who solemnly de-
clared that they would neither give, nor
lend, Money, for such idle Purposes: This
made a sad Piece of Work between my
Grandfather and the whole Family. One
Day

Day after Dinner, the Dispute arose so high, that a Quarrel ensued, in which my Grandfather and his Friends had the worst of it; and he was confined to his Chamber. Soon after his Son, who (as the saying is) was a very promising Youth, gathering some Friends, broke open the Door, kicking all those who detained him, he enlarged his Father. In some Time a Reconciliation was brought about between him and my Cousins, upon renewing the Bond which his Father had perfected before; a strong Argument that it was not so much a Love of Disobedience, which some have falsely insinuated, as Dislike of Measures, which ever instigated my Cousins to such violent Steps. Besides this, there was another Reason for these Misunderstandings; my Granmother had, through a good-natur'd Condescension, Time immemorial, permitted her Husbands to keep one Concubine, and no more, at a Time; for which Custom they had also the Conjuror's Approbation. The Person he made Choice of for this Purpose, was of a mean beggerly Family: On this Account the House was always crowded with a Pack of poor lousy Devils, her Cousins, who either begged or filch'd every thing they could lay their Hands on.

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When the old Man died, his Son was on the old Scheme of *Sarazen*-curing; and, tho' it was an whole Year before his Return, my Grandmother waited patiently for him. The first remarkable Step he took, was to receive my Grandmother's ancient Progeny (which her Northern Husbands had driven into the Hills) into her Family again.

Soon after an almost irreconcilable Quarrel broke out between us and my Cousins in the North, which not only kept his Hands full for the rest of his Life, but also entail'd it upon his Successors for near Three Hundred Years. The Occasion of this Quarrel was, my Aunt's last Husband dying without Issue, she had many Suitors, who having all got their Answers, but two, they frequently quarell'd about their Right to her Affections: My Grandfather, that he might make this Matter turn out to his Advantage, sending privately to one, he promised his Assistance and Interest, to procure my Aunt conditionally: He would always subscribe himself, his most humble Servant; to which he was generously answer'd, that he had too great a Respect for the Lady and her Children, to advance his Honour by their Fall. But the other Hangman was not so disinterested, and my Aunt's Pride was obliged

obliged to submit to a Marriage against her Inclination. However, this Agreement, as it was dishonourably entered into, could not subsist long.

My Grandfather treated his Cousin a little too cavalierly at his House, on a frivolous Complaint made by one of his Tenents. Upon his Return Home, he told my Aunt of the Indignity offer'd to him, and confessed the scandalous Concessions he had made to procure her. Nothing could provoke my Aunt or her Children more, than to find themselves deluded into a Dependance; particularly a shameful one.

My Grandfather, who never suffered himself to be surpriz'd, hearing of these Proceedings, immediately posts to the North, with a vast Retinue of very unlucky Fellows: Meeting with my Uncle, he kick'd and box'd him about unmercifully; and shortly afterwards sent him Home as a Raree-shew. My Aunt and her Children were so frighten'd at this Shock, that all took their Oaths, to become his Tenents and Servants. However, my Grandfather was scarcely settled at Home, but there appear'd an upstart troublesome Fellow, who declaimed so loudly against the oppressive Conduct of my Grandmother and her Children, that he soon got about him a Number of Raggamuffins, sufficient to
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expel all my Grandfather's Stewards and Servants out of the Country. This fill'd him with so much Indignation, that he return'd one Morning, and cut Forty Thousand of their Throats; which so intimidated the rest, that they again renewed their Obligation.

But the same Man who refused to receive my Aunt on dishonourable Terms, now insinuates himself with her and her Children, persuading them they had properly neither Husband nor Master. By such Artifices, deluding a Kind of Consent, he mounted the Marriage-Bed, and immediately renewed the Quarrel, which was carried on with various Success; 'till at last, my Grandfather dying in the North, he set upon his People while their Concern and Grief were yet recent, and gave them such a Drubbing, that every Man who escaped, talked of it as a Victory. However, he left a Son, from whose Valour my Cousins promised themselves a great deal, but how were they disappointed when Thirty Thousand of these North-Country Fellows flogged an Hundred Thousand of my Cousins, and spread so general a Consternation, that, for the first Time, my Cousins shew'd the Colour of their Cloaths behind; besides he had more sensible Evils to contend with at Home. There was an

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artful Sycophant Fellow, who had, emerg'd from the Scum of the People, got a little acquainted with my Grandfather, and then into his Confidence; and, by and by, to such an Height was his Influence grown, that the unhappy Man could not be persuaded, that he either heard, saw, felt, or conceived, any one thing, unless this Favourite had assured him of it's Truth. This Fellow's Insolence grew so intolerable to my Grandmother, that she complained to all her Children in an affecting Manner, that this Man had alienated the Affections of her Husband from her, that he govern'd, directed, and dispos'd of every thing in her Family; that she acknowledg'd she had an Husband indeed, but that she receiv'd no other Benefits or Offices from him, but the Dishonour of carrying his Name.

My Cousins were not insensible to the Justice of her Complaint, for every one of them had, one Time or other, received some Indignity from him. Upon this they wrote my Granfather a very submissive Letter, intreating him to remove him, as a Man that brought Dishonour upon his Family, and gave Offence in general to all the People. My Grandfather, a little alarm'd at this Remonstrance, to pacify my Cousins, made a Kind of evasive Removal, by appointing him Master and Steward of the
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Potatoe-Garden in the West, which, about this Time, began to grow pretty considerable. Tho' this was a lucrative Place, and such a one as might gratify the Ambition of any Body else, yet such was the Anxiety of the Favourite, as well as of my Grandfather, that neither the one nor the other could be at Ease unless they were to meet again. My Grandfather, like a silly Block-head, recalls him: and, in Spite of the Prayers, Grumblings, Threats and Importunities, of my Grandmother and his best Friends, he encourag'd this Fellow, or at least countenanc'd him, to lord it over every body indiscriminately. At last, my Cousins finding no other Measures would do, they had Recourse to the worst of all others, Violence: The Author of their Disquietudes soon fell into their Hands; and a few Ounces of cold Iron, properly administer'd, soon separated his Head from his Shoulders.

This Disobedience gave my Grandfather a good deal of Concern; but, the Cause being removed, the Effect ceased: Every Man of them, upon the Death of this Gascon, returned to their Obedience; and he saw himself again the Master of his Family. But a new Favourite started up, as if this poor Man was to be undone by his Affections. My Grandmother, Cousins, and

his very Concubine, all clamoured now; and my unhappy Grandfather was soon made a Prisoner, and sent to an old waste House at a distant Corner of the Estate, where, by the Advice of his Concubine, a Subpositor of hot Iron was given to him, by which he miserably died.

Here it is worth remarking, by what different Motives my Cousins and this Woman were actuated. Their Designs were so far from aiming at his Life, or intending to strip him of his Estate, that their principal View was, to preserve his Honour and secure his Estate from the Avarice and Rapine of Scoundrels; but those of the Concubine were founded on an odious Prospect of satisfying her licentious Appetites with Impunity.

When my Grandfather died, he demised his Wife, half-naked and starved, to his Son, a well-looking Stripling, whom his Mother insisted she would conduct, saying he was not able yet to keep out of the Fire; to which my Cousins readily submitted, not suspecting her late Pranks. Tho' Men are generally the last who either know, or see into, the Dishonour of their own Family, yet the Younger had either Penetration enough to see clearly into his Mother's scandalous Carriage, or he had some Friend generous enough to advertise him

him of her Infamy, which so roused the young Gentleman, who had naturally Spirits enough, he ordered Matters so well, that they were soon after surprized, like *Mars* and *Venus* together. This Action made a considerable Noise, and my Cousins, in full Assembly, unanimously voted, that he might undertake the Government of the Family, that the Pandour should be advanced to *Tyburn*, and the Lady obliged to pray, and eat Barley Bread in a Cloister. Such vehement Lovers of Justice are my Cousins, that their Impatience won't suffer them to permit the Laws to operate regularly when the Crime is flagrant, and therefore the poor Rascal was hung up without formal Tryal or Sentence.

As soon as this was done, he applies himself toward quieting my Cousins in the North; and, what was most acceptable at Home, he reformed the Family, and made good and wholesome Rules to prevent any one from breaking in upon the Province of another; besides he represented to them, that it was for their Honours he should live like a Gentleman. I promise you, quoth he, that I will never privately pick your Pockets, nor attempt prevailing upon some to assist me in distressing the others: No, Gentlemen; if I take a Penny I will give a Pound, and

and convert your Nine Pence into a Noble: In short, I will encourage your Trade.

When he had thus settled Matters at Home, he began to think it incumbent upon him to re-unite all our ancient Possessions on the other Side of the Water; which *Ragoût* had forcibly acquired, or fraudulently obtained: Besides, he thought his Title was very just to all *Ragoût* had, as his Mother was his only Daughter. Upon which, marching into *Ragoût's* Country, with a Parcel of very honest Fellows, on whose Hearts and Swords, more than Numbers, he depended, he carried Fire and Tow wherever he came. *Ragoût*, who had all this Time laid close, thinking he would have catch'd him in a Trap, come suddenly with Sixty Thousand ill-looking Fellows upon my poor Grandfather. However, he treated Man and Horse so well, that one half of them could not find their Way back. After this, *Ragoût*, thinking to entrap the Lyon's black Whelp, catch'd a Tartar; for the young Spark and his Companions, lying conceal'd in a Wood, so pepper'd the Horse, that, running back, they threw one another into Confusion; which gave him an Opportunity to play the Devil with them, and *Ragoût* himself was taken Prisoner; and my Aunt's Husband in the North underwent the same Fate

Fate at Home, by attempting to draw our Attention from the Affairs of *Ragout*.

While the Glory of my Grandfather was carried to such an Height abroad, his brave Son died suddenly; and with him, one would imagine, expired the Genius of my Grandfather's good Fortune. Poor Man! He soon broke his Heart; and my Grandmother's Affairs declined visibly, for she became now Wife to a Boy Eleven Years old. Things were then execrably managed both at home and abroad, and the Devil knows what was levied, and was as idly expended in References and Meetings at Alehouses and Taverns with our Neighbour.

Whilst Things were thus order'd, an Event happen'd which threw the whole Family into a terrible Consternation. There was an odd Dog, a Bricklayer, and an idle Jack-straw of a Fellow took it in their Heads forsooth, that it was disreputable for them, that any body should be more Gentlemen than themselves and their Companions, and that my Grandmother should not have an Husband or Servant that wore a better Coat than they did. These Fellows gathering an incredible Number of Raggamuffins by their Doctrines, went directly to my Grandfather's Door, under Pretence of demanding Justice against
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some of the Servants for Misbehaviour in their Office, they were too formidable a Body to be refused a Conference; in which one of their Ringleaders treating my Grandfather a little too familiarly, a Gentleman, Head of a Society, not greatly celebrated for Acts of Heroism, stabb'd the Rascal to the Heart; and with his, fled the Soul of the Infurrection.

This Brush being over, the young Gentleman forgot himself again by little and little, cutting the Throats of some, and banishing others, who opposed his Frolics. He at last cancell'd the Bond which his Predecessors had given, and which he himself had renewed, for the Security of their Persons and Property. Then was my poor Grandmother and her whole Family abandon'd to the Robberies and Plunder of every Rook he thought fit to favour; but while he made a Journey towards my Aunt's Potatoc-Garden, (the People being not a little out of Humour) one of his Nephews, returning from Transportation, promised my Cousins, that, if they would engage my Grandmother to procure a Divorce from her present Husband, and accept of him as his Successor, he would swear a Horse to be a mill'd Shilling if they desir'd it, and sign any Bond they could contrive. Matters being thus agreed upon,

upon, the poor Devil, on his Return, found a Jail in his own House, where he soon after died, much to the Concern, tho' not at all to the Loss, of my Cousins; for nothing's more customary in our Family, than first to ruin a Man, and then pity him.

Whether my Cousins grew insolent at finding themselves able to oblige my Grandmother to marry whom they pleased, I know not; but, if this was the Motive which induced them to use this poor Gentleman ill, it was a very mean one, for they kept him in hot Water the most Part of his Life; sometimes pretending he regarded not his Bond, nor kept his Marriage Contract; and, again, that he shew'd an unreasonable Partiality to all the Chaplains, and their Journeymen. But he was a Man of Prudence, and always kept enough of my Cousins so much his Friends, as to baffle the malevolent Intentions of the rest. My Cousins in the North took several Opportunities to gratify their old Spleen, during their Discontents: They got little else for their Pains but dry Blows; and *Ragoût*, growing saucy for the same Reason, affronted him frequently; but he prudently avoided quarelling, and defeated *Ragoût's* Intentions with his own very Weapons: Letters, References, and Com-promises, finished all their Bickerings, and

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he died in a good old Age, in my Grandmother's House, deserving a better Character than the Transcribers of old News-Papers give him.

He left a Son behind him, whom my Grandmother married immediately, valiant, wise, and pious, according to the Religion which was in Fashion in those Days. He soon found my Cousins would be employ'd, therefore thought *Ragoût's* Family could administer the fittest Matter to exercise their Talents; but, that he might do Things in Form, he first sent a very civil Message to *Ragoût*, Indeed that he had no Right to his House or Garden, to his Wife or Children, or to the very Coat upon his Back, or, in short, to any thing else he possess'd; and that, if he did not acknowledge this to be true, and give them up, he would come, and very decently cut his Wind-Pipe for him.

Ragoût and his Family received this Message like a Dose of Jallup; upon which my Grandfather goes into *Ragout's* Estate, burning and destroying more than *Sampson's* Foxes: But my Gentleman by and by had like to be caught napping; for in a large Field, he meets half the People of *Ragoût's* House: A damnable Scuffle ensued; and my Cousins, in Spite of all the Beef and Plumb-Pudding they had eaten,

eaten, would have been very well flogged, had not my Grandfather been there, to animate them by his Presence, and encourage them by his Example. In short, after a severe Trial of Skill on both Sides, *Ragoût* was almost undone, and my Grandfather march'd triumphantly wherever he pleased, though with sore Bones; and my Cousins at Home did all his Bills Honour, tho' they never expected the Value of a crack'd Bottle Benefit by *Ragoût*, or any thing else in his Neighbourhood. And here I can't help observing, that my Cousins, thro' the whole Course of my Grandmother's History, never failed in their Duty; but when my Grandfathers themselves were either Fools or Scoundrels, or were weak enough to prostitute my Grandmother to such, then they ever found in my Cousins, a People who would neither serve the mean Purposes of the one, nor the villainous Views of the other.

But how transitory is all human Glory! My Grandfather who was now become the Protector of *Ragoût's* House and Family, was taken short, and tumbled over like a Nine-Pin; (and *Johnny Falstaff* cried bitterly) and my Grandmother became a disconsolate Widow in a Trice, having left her to a Youngster, but eight Months old.

My Cousins, with their usual Prudence, made Choice of two Gentlemen, as Guardians for my Grandfather and his Affairs; the one of *Bedfordshire*, sober, wise, and active; the other of *Gloucestershire*, proud, sensible, and cautious. Under two such Governors, it was presum'd, Matters would be carried on swimmingly, as they were both popular, neither were suspected: The Care of *Ragoût's* Widow was conferr'd on *Bedford*, and my Grandfather was entrusted to *Gloucester*.

Matters being thus settled, Things went on very well for some Time: But notwithstanding the prudent Conduct of *Bedford*, Mademoiselle *Ragoût's* Family began to grow very uneasy, insisting, that my Grandmother's Stewards and Servants were a Pack of impudent Fellows, and that, if their Mother must have a Husband, some one of their own Family was more suitable, who would not act his Part by Proxy: Many were of this Opinion, and as many for maintaining my Grandfather's Right.

You may imagine Matters did not long continue in this Posture: This, and the Opposition of Sentiments, created Jealousies, which soon broke out in an open Quarrel. *Ragoût's* Children found out the Son of their late Father, and, without Scruple or Ceremony, married him to their Mother;

Mother ; while *Bedford* maintain'd the Right of his Ward, with all the Vigilance of a trusty Steward.

Ragout, with all the Violence and Heat of the young and ambitious, endeavour'd, by attempting even desperate Things, to support the Choice of his Cousins. *Bedford* was always victorious, *Ragout* never ; and the Affairs of this honourable House were on the Point of submitting to the Fortune of my Grandfather, when there comes a strapping great Wench from a Village in the Country, who clapping *Ragout* on the Back, says, " Courage, Man ; " by *Jingo* I will do for you . If you don't " believe me, ask the Chaplains."

Whether *Ragout* looked upon his Affairs as desperate, or whether he really believed the Hussy, I know not ; but, affecting to give her Credit, she put on a swinging great Sword, and away she went, fighting, cutting to Pieces, and playing the Devil wherever she came. This Virago struck a Terror into my Cousins, and so animated *Ragout's* Party, that one might have imagined, they changed Souls : Every thing succeeded with them, nothing with us. At last my Heroine was catch'd ; and, whether Saint or Devil, my Cousins tried how she lik'd burning.

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After the Death of this Girl, the Quarrel was carried on with as much Fury as ever, my Aunt in the North assisting *Ragout*; and my Cousins began to find so much Business at Home, that they were not able to keep what they had got abroad; and *Ragout* recovered every thing but two or three little Farms. The Reason of this Misfortune was, my Cousins now, to their Shame, had engaged themselves, every one, in the Altercations of a Couple of Fellows, who made a strange Pother about who was the best Gentleman, or who was best entitled to succeed to my Grandmother's Bed. But how were my Cousins at this Period degenerated! This is one of the first fatal Instances of their Corruption: Heretofore their Concern was not who governed the House and Family, but how it was govern'd; no Matter where he came from, nor of what Stock he was, provided he did Justice: But now you see them all unhappily engaged in a Quarrel about a Pack, to whose Virtues or Vices they were absolute Strangers, and who did not care if they were all hang'd, if they could make any thing by it.

The Confusion which this idle Quarrel made in the Family, is unspeakable: The Descendant of the elder Brother, who, by way of Distinction, called himself the Progeny

geny of *Eboracho*, raised such a Commotion in the Family against his Cousin, who was of the Tribe of *Gantio*, and, as before was observed, so many took Part with each of them, and Animosities grew so high, that a Man could scarcely turn himself any where, but he might see some of the Family complaining of broken Legs, broken Bones, or black Eyes; nay, so much had the quarelling Devil possessed them, that if a Man spoke even under the Rose, he was presently knock'd down, if he did not signify it's Colour. At last the Progeny of *Eboracho* became triumphant, and ascended my Grandmother's Bed thro' the Blood and Slaughter of my Grandfather, and of so many Thousands besides, that our House was almost desolate.

This Quarrel was a good deal fomented by one *Warrachius*, who was the most dextrous Gamester that Age produced, and the Party he sided with was always in Luck; but this Man being taken off, after first siding with one, and then with the other, the Quarrel for some Time subsided, and the Son of *Eboracho* was left without a Rival. My Cousins, in a full Assembly of the upper Servants, Chaplains, and Farmers, pursued their old salutary Maxim, of espousing the Interest of the strongest; and unanimously recommended him,

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as a Husband to my Grandmother, at the Time she would have received not only him, but any other Person, being heartily tired with the thirty eight Years Folly and Impotence of her former Husband.

His first Care was to make the *Italian* Doctor's Chaplains all his Friends, by allowing them the hopeful Privilege, of judging for one another in civil and criminal Cases. He was, on all Occasions, particularly civil to the Ladies; and some memorable Footsteps of his Gallantry are still extant among us; which his Concubine always affecting to overlook, my Grandfather allowed her the Privilege of doing almost whatever she pleased, provided she meddled not with his private Concerns: And he, who was but just now the bravest in the Field, and the ablest in the Cabinet, you see degenerated into the bowing Fool of a drawing Room. She was proud, factious, and revengeful, and this was all she wanted to gratify her darling Passions: Madam prosecuted her Plan to so good Purpose, that she laid the Foundation for the Ruin of herself and Family. She had, by Degrees, brought her own Creatures into all the best Services about the House, and thrust out all the good old honest Domesticks. These Tricks, you may be sure, brought upon her the Dislike of many;

many ; but she did not care a Straw for what any one said or did, as long as she had my Grandfather's Countenance, and a Probability of bringing her Scheme to bear, which was to rule the Roast.

During the Minority of her Son, after my Grandfather's Death, which happen'd soon after, (some say, he took Pout and died, forsooth, because *Ragoût* was cunninger than he) the Distinction between the old Servants and the new, necessarily kindled another Division in the Family, which, by and by, grew into an ugly Friceau ; which my Grandfather's Concubine heighten'd, by espousing the Interest of the new Comers.

My Grandfather's Brother, who was a very restless-minded, ambitious Dog, watch'd these Proceedings attentively ; and so countermined this Lady, that he had himself appointed Governor to the young Gentleman, who was to succeed : But this was setting the Fox to keep the Goose, for, in less than ten Weeks after his Marriage, 'tis said, he pick'd his Bones for his Supper ; and, 'tis given out, his Brother met the same Fate.

As the best of Institutions may be converted into the worst Purposes, this Man found Means to persuade one of the Chaplains, to traduce the Marriage of his late Master, as infamous and incestuous, and to

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influence some of the common People, on this Account, to propose this wicked Fellow as a proper Match for my Grandmother; which was done in an unaccountable Manner, and he accordingly espoused my Grandmother. However, to consiliate the Affections of the People, who were not half satisfied with this Match, he first less'n'd the Rents, and then applied himself to the instituting good and wholesome Laws; and gave my Cousins more Liberty in the Family: But all this would not do; the Door was open to the first that knocked. A distant Relation of the Family of *Gantio*, who had some Years ago ran away for Fear of his Neck, now returning, demanded my Grandmother, as his Right, which put my Bridegroom's Back up frightfully; and a vast Number, more out of Hatred to my Grandfather than Love to this new Comer, flocked to him: In a short Time, he found such a Bar of Casuists in Red on his Side, that he thought himself in a Condition to go to Tryal; and the Point was laboured, in Behalf of the Stranger, so strenuously, that the Tyrant and his Party received Sentence and Execution together.

The Death of this Fellow opening the Door of my Grandmother's Bed-chamber, he enter'd without any Ceremony; and, during his Life, industriously evaded giving
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my Cousins any Account, on what Title he founded this Privilege; tho' it appears by a Letter, wrote to him by the old Doctor, who would still be meddling, that he affected to have it thought by all the World, that the Right was in himself; tho', 'tis certain, he could derive no other Claim, but the Voice of my Cousins, or that of his Concubine, who was now the last of the unhappy House of *Eboracho*. The Reasons which induced him to decline acknowledging the Favour to be of my Cousins conferring were, that, as he was determin'd to be Master of his own House, my Cousins might complain of Ingratitude, if they met with rigorous Treatment at his Hands; and, if he paid any Compliment to his Concubine and her Right, he foresaw the Disputes that would necessarily arise, from either pretended, or real Claimants to my Grandmother; for I believe 'tis pretty certain, that my Grandmother's late Husband had taken off both his Predecessor's Sons, but that the youngest escap'd his Fangs; and that his Flight was carefully concealed by him and his Successor, to suppress the Murmurs of my Cousins.

As this wise Man had presaged so it came to pass; for an ambitious Priest had taught his Boy to personate the young Gentleman so well, that (after having been received by my Aunt in the West, as her

Landlord, and bred such a Confusion at Home, that I can't tell where it would have ended, if my Grandfather had not caught, and metamorphos'd him into a *Bristol Dog*) soon after the real Heir appeared, whom, to prevent further Disturbance, he very decently advanc'd to *Tyburn*, as dead Men want no Benefices.

Sure never was a Family conducted with greater Ability of Councils, or Dexterity in their Execution than ours: At this Time my Grandfather had an uncommon Passion for Money; and the Steps he took to procure it were as new, providentially for us the Schemes he laid for our Undoing; tho' they answer'd his Purpose at that Time, afterwards became the glorious Source of all our Wealth and Grandeur. Money he must have, and the People must be fleeced; but how it could be effected without bringing an old House on his own Head was the Point: The upper Servants would not suffer their Inferiors to be oppress'd, lest the Evil should come next to their own Door. But this *Solomon* found out an Expedient: He perswaded the upper Servants to accept a small yearly Sum of Money from the Farmers, instead of personal Service for their Lands; to which they readily consented, as the Cash might be used at any Time, and the Service uncertain. But how could these poor Vassals procure Money

Money to answer his Avarice, and their Master's Calls? He opened a free Trade, and taught them to go abroad, and try their Fortunes, like the younger Brothers of *Scotsmen*: He encouraged Arts, Sciences, and Manufactures; by which Means what he took by Shilling, he repaid in Pounds. By this more than masterly Conduct, he got rid of the formidable Power of these petulant Gentlemen, and opened a Channel for their Blessings of Trade, Plenty, and Honour, to flow upon every Individual that deserved it. Besides the enriching of his Family, he saw another visible Advantage accrue to himself, arising from these Proceedings: My Cousins Attention being now taken up about something else, had no Leisure to meddle with any hot-headed Fellow, who should take upon him to disturb the Family. Thus the Farmers saw themselves re-inflated in the Condition, from whence they fell by the *Frenchman's* Invasion, and the Vices of this Man conferr'd upon them the Privileges, which they had, to no Purpose, struggled for during the last Four Hundred Years.

Attentive as this Man was to his Affairs without Doors, he neglected nothing at Home; for, as soon as his Daughter *Peg* was fit to save the Expence of Diet, Cloathing, and Education, he sent her to *Jemmy*, my Aunt's Husband in the North; and
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married his Son, *Atty*, to *Kate*, the Daughter of *Ferdinand*, the Catholic: But he not being able to endure a *Spanish* Climate long, bid the World and his Bride adieu, before he was sixteen. My frugal Grandfather, to save further Expences, bestows her upon young *Hopeful*, who was then but Twelve; having first procured an Opinion from the old Doctor, in Favour of this Match; and after living to a good old Age, he died, by a strange Accident, a natural Death in his own House.

The Spark who succeeded him was an odd Fellow, and cuts as new a Figure as perhaps may be found in History. His Father, during the Life of the elder Brother, intended, as soon as he was qualified, he should be sent on a Courtship to the *Italian* Doctor's Widow: Tho' this Lady had been originally blessed with all the Beauty, Innocence, and Uniformity, which divine Providence could bestow upon her, yet so miserably was she now disguised thro' the Lewdness of her last Husbands, that Patch and Paint, and fantastic Decorations of her Person, was all that could be discovered of this exquisite Creature. The only Accomplishments necessary to win her Affections, were a large Stock of Hypocrisy, and an immense Quantity of technical Nonsense, with a poor Portion of *Latin* used in Exorcisms and Incantations.

tations. *Hopeful* was obliged to go to School, to inform himself of the last of these Requisites: As for Impudence, which, except Ignorance, is the most essential Ingredient to recommend any Gentleman to the good Opinion of this unfortunate Lady, his Father was sensible that might be easily acquired among the Fraternity.

Thus educated and thus instructed, young *Hopeful* became Candidate to my Grandmother's Bed, for which he did not languish a great while; for, on my Grandfather's Death, with the Consent of my Cousins, she immediately received him to her Arms. He was then a pretty young Fellow, as the Phrase has it: He danced gracefully, dressed finely, and sung charmingly. These pleased the Ladies; while he tuck'd up one, and thrust up another, of the Tools, which his Father used in picking of Pockets, and plundering my Cousins. Above all, he won the Hearts of the *Italian* Doctor and his Journeymen, in whose Behalf he wrote a Book against an upstart Fellow, who had the Assurance to describe the Doctor's Spouse, as she bloom'd in her Virgin Purity; for which he was honoured with a pretty Nick-name, of which my Gentleman seem'd very proud.

His upper Chaplain, about this Time, had got such an Ascendancy over him, that
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my Grandmother and my Cousins began to grow jealous; and indeed I don't wonder at it, for this sly Dog had so insinuated himself with my Grandfather, that he verily believed, whatever this Man said or did, was his own Act or Deed. He once had a private Pique at *Ragout*; and, would you believe it, my Grandfather thought himself injur'd, and to Loggerheads he goes with his Neighbour; and the Chaplain only got by the Squabble, before my Grandfather fell under his Influence. He imagin'd himself a very smart Fellow, and would now and then take upon him to make Bargains, but to his, and my Cousins, great Expence. He at last found that he was shamefully bit, when he did not take Advice, not only by his *Spanish*, but also his *French* and *German* Acquaintance.

After he had lived with *Kate* Twenty Years soberly and lovingly, a religious Maggot now bites my Gentleman, or, at least, he pretended so; that forsooth it was a crying Sin to go between the Sheets, where his Brother was before: But I fancy my Grandfather was a cursed Liar; and the whole Truth of the Matter was, that he, being now weary of his *Spanish* Possessions, had a warmer Inclination to a Piece of his own native Soil. But, as he would do nothing irregularly, he sent to the Doctor, to desire that his Acquaintance
with

with *Kate* should, by the Power of his Magic, be cancell'd and obliterated from the Face of Things. At first the Doctor seem'd to comply, as my Grandfather was then a dutiful Boy, and had conniv'd at his Journeymen's having play'd every *Hocus Pocus* Trick they lik'd in our Family: But a great *German*, with a swinging Pair of Whiskers, tells the Doctor, That, if he dare meddle or make in the Matter, he would come and take off his conjuring Cap, and kick him out of his great Chair. Tho' he affected not to be frighten'd at this Menace, yet, influenc'd by it, and the upper Chaplain's Insinuation, he refused the Matter.

My Grandfather, who, 'till now, was one of the meek Lambs of the Church, curs'd and swore like a Devil at the Doctor and his Friends: "How dare the old
 "Scoundrel, quoth he, take this Liberty?
 "Does not the Rascal know, that I am
 "conscious of his Tricks? That he pro-
 "stitutes his own poor Wife, to every Ras-
 "cal that is able to pay the Price; and
 "that he has neglected and abused the
 "poor Creature to such a Degree, I would
 "defy any Man to know her: But, by
 "G--d, I will be even with him, for I'll
 "take the poor Woman into my own Care;
 "and, between you and I, tho' I don't
 "care a Loufe for her Quiet, as far as in

H

" my

“ my Power, she shall be released from the
 “ arbitrary Government and scandalous
 “ Prostitution of this mercenary Villain.”
 Then calling for his Chaplain in a Fury,
 “ Get out of my House, quoth he, thou
 “ old Sycophant Rogue: Is it not to your
 “ delusive Tricks and priestly Deceits, that
 “ I now labour under these Disappoint-
 “ ments: I will convince both you and
 “ your old doating Master, that I regard
 “ neither the one nor the other of you a
 “ Pin’s Point. Let me see your Face no
 “ more in this House; and, for your Mas-
 “ ter, I dread him, and the Roaring of his
 “ Bulls, so little, that I am determin’d to
 “ turn every Man out of Doors, that even
 “ dares dream he has any Authority here.
 “ I am astonish’d at the Insensibility and
 “ Meanness of my Progenitors, who suf-
 “ fer’d these Vermin to infest our Family
 “ with Impunity so long, in Defiance of
 “ Morality, the Affront of Reason, and
 “ the Blush of Virtue.” Then convening
 his upper Servants and Farmers, he com-
 plain’d very artfully of the Tyranny and
 Impudence of the old Doctor and his Ad-
 herents. “ Is it not too much, says he,
 “ for these Prigs to domineer over our
 “ Consciences so long: But, would you
 “ believe it, they now swear, that they
 “ are the Sovereigns of our Will, Liberty,
 “ and Property. I am well informed, that,
 “ anciently,

“ anciently, neither my Wife, nor any of
 “ her Family, ever stoop’d to call any
 “ Man without Doors Master; and shall
 “ we be more degenerate than they? Had
 “ they not Hearts? Yes; so have we: Be-
 “ sides, I can’t but think, we are Pimps
 “ in some Sort to these Fellows, so long
 “ as we suffer such lusty L-ch-rs, with vast
 “ Appointments, to keep publick Bawdy-
 “ Houses almost in every Parish. I think
 “ such immense Wealth would be better
 “ disposed of among the deserving Part of
 “ our own Family; and let these idle
 “ Drones go a begging as was their pri-
 “ mitive Institution.”

Religion, Novelty, or Avarice, or per-
 haps all three, influenced the Assembly so
 much, that every Man unanimously agreed,
 that what my Grandfather advanced was
 reasonable and fair; and that he was a
 Knave in his Heart, and deserved hanging,
 who should hereafter deny him to be the
 absolute Master of our Family; nay, that
 he had the very Privilege to direct and in-
 struct our Consciences, in what Manner we
 should believe even the Lord’s Prayer and
 the ten Commandments.

Here we see a Pack of Fellows give for
 an old Song, in an Instant, all that their
 Fathers had been acquiring for Ages. Upon
 which off my Gentleman flings the Mask,
 and discovered one of the veriest Wolves

that ever wore a Lamb's Coat: Priests, Prelates, Men, Women, Widows, and Wives, fell indiscriminately before him; *Man in his Ire, and Woman in his Lust*: His upper Chaplain was frighten'd to Death at the very Thought of seeing him again. By and by he makes me, the great Chancellor, and another of the Chaplains, the Head shorter, for not acknowledging, that all he said was Gospel.

There was still in the Family a Chaplain left, who was a Man of Learning, and, I believe, an honest Man, if his Cowardice had not prevailed over his natural Disposition. This Man was now all in all with my Grandfather, and very convenient he was, for if at any Time he had a Mind to get rid of his Concubines, his Reverence had but the Wink, and the Matter was done. Divorces, Annihilation of Contracts, and taking off Heads, were treated as meer Trifles in these Days; and, what was worst of all, he managed his Cards so artfully, that my Cousins were ever made the Instruments of executing his Purposes. Thus he liv'd in a Passion with his Family, and they perpetually afraid of him, for seven and thirty Years; and then died with the Consent of every body about him, deserving this Character, *that he never punish'd Vice or rewarded Virtue, unless it gratified some favourite Passion.*

The End of the FIRST PART.



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